

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method for triggering and controlling lateral buckling of underwater pipelines by installation of supporting systems positioned in certain points of a seabed, the method comprising:

tilting upper surfaces of supports on which the pipelines rest with respect to a horizontal plane, and transversally with respect to a direction of the pipelines,

wherein the tilting creates a lateral force acting on the pipelines, in relation to a weight of the pipelines and an inclination angle of the upper surfaces, which predetermines a direction of a downward transversal movement of the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the supports.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

installing the supporting systems in certain points of the seabed;

laying underwater pipelines by resting the pipelines on the upper surfaces of the support.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the underwater pipelines are rested on the upper surfaces of the support and include funnels formed by structures present around a higher end of a carrying structure of the support.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein at least part of the structures present around the higher end of the carrying structure are removed after the pipelines have been rested on the upper surfaces.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the inclination angle of the upper surfaces with respect to the horizontal plane ranges from 3 to 30°.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein the inclination angle ranges from 5 to 15°.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces of the support have a constant inclination.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces of the support have a varying inclination in one or more points.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces of the support include a succession of sections with a varying inclination alternating with horizontal stretches.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein a final section of the upper surfaces of the support are counter-inclined.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the upper surfaces are coated with material having a defined friction coefficient.

Claims 29-32 (Canceled).